

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-18 (Previously Canceled)

Claim 19 (Currently Amended) An improved universal fork, comprising:

~~a head portion, a handle portion and a finger platform portion connecting between the head portion and the handle portion,~~

~~the handle portion including a shaft portion and a grip portion, the grip portion disposed opposite the finger platform portion and the shaft portion connecting between the finger platform portion and the grip portion, the grip portion having an enlarged end opposite the handle portion for providing a counter weight to the head portion of the fork, the enlarged end of the grip portion having an enlarged width and an enlarged depth adapted for fitting and pressing against the palm of the hand of a person,~~

~~the head portion including at least one inner fork tine and at least two outer fork tines, the at least one inner fork tine having a generally elongated shape suitable for a fork tine, the outer fork tines having curved outer edges when viewed from a top view perspective, the outer edges of the outer fork tines including beveled outside edges suitable for cutting food the head and the tines also having a curved shape when viewed from a side view perspective, the outside tines having a generally symmetrical configuration suitable for use in cutting by either a left handed or right handed person,~~

~~the finger platform portion disposed between the head of the fork and the handle portion having two generally symmetrical flattened surfaces for receiving finger pressure, the flattened surfaces oriented generally parallel to each other and are oriented at a right angle in relation to the width of the handle portion to present generally widened flat surfaces when viewed from a side view perspective, the two generally symmetrical and opposite finger platform surfaces for receiving pressure from the finger of a right handed or left handed person, one of the two finger platform surfaces thereby allowing the application of cutting pressure upon the curved outer edges of the outer tines for cutting of a food item by either a left handed or right handed person.~~

a generally symmetrical fork head and a generally symmetrical handle grip  
the handle grip including an upper surface and a lower surface, a central handle  
shaft connected to the fork head and a terminating end opposite the fork head, the handle  
grip having a generally curved outer shape which is generally flattened on the upper and  
lower surfaces and which increases in circumference along its length from the central  
handle shaft to the terminating end, the height of the central handle shaft increased at the  
point where the fork head is joined to the shaft thereby causing the top side of the shaft to  
be raised upwards and the bottom side of the shaft to protrude downwards and such that  
the width of the shaft is not significantly wider thereby presenting opposing flat areas  
which present finger platforms, each finger platform including opposite flattened surfaces  
bounded by the top side and the bottom side of the shaft adjacent to the fork head and  
located along the length of the central handle shaft where the central handle shaft is  
joined to the fork head,

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the fork head having two outer tines and at least one inner tine, the fork head presenting a widened portion defined by opposite extended curved outer edges of the outer tines, the curved outer edges of the two outer tines following an arcual path arcing at least thirty degrees, the outer edges of the outer tines having edges sufficiently arcurate for cutting cooked food.

whereby a user may hold the handle grip and place a finger upon one of the finger platforms and apply pressure to the opposite outside edge of one of the outer tine opposite the finger platform to thereby applying concentrated pressure while rocking the improved universal fork by raising and lowering the terminating end of the handle grip such that the outside edge of the curved outer tine cuts a food item and whereby a user may do so with either hand because of the symmetrical shape of the improved universal fork.

Claim 20 (Previously presented) The improved universal fork of claim 19, wherein;

the outside edges of the outside tines of the head portion follow symmetrical arcual paths wherein for each outside tine, a first vector tangent to the arcual path at the base of the head portion and a second vector tangent to the arcual path at the end of the tine define an angle of curvature that is greater than 30 degrees and less than 90 degrees.

Claim 21 (Previously presented) The improved universal fork of claim 19, wherein;

the outside edges of the outside tines of the head portion follow symmetrical arcual paths wherein for each outside tine, a first vector tangent to the arcual path at the base of the head portion and a second vector tangent to the arcual path at the end of the tine define an angle of curvature that is greater than 32 degrees and less than 47 degrees.